HIGHLIGHTS
FROM THE
SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Second Session

Twenty-second Legislature

March 8, 1990

Province of Alberta

*"My government must be a steward for Albertans, and must be everything a steward should be: a **manager** ... a **provider** ... a **protector** ... a **responder** ... a **defender.***

"... my government does not dictate the common will, but rather, must listen to the voices of Albertans and express their will ..."

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY — MANAGING THE TREASURY

"... my government's ultimate responsibility is to this and future generations of Albertans. My government:"

- has presented a plan for a balanced budget by 1992;
- will continue to maintain the quality of service Albertans now enjoy;
- will continue to strongly oppose the proposed Goods and Services Tax, and the Bank of Canada high interest rate policy.

THE ECONOMY — PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY

"...it is the efforts, ideas and abilities of Albertans that make the economy so vibrant ... My government will assist Alberta business to seize the economic opportunities of growing world markets through:"

- helping Alberta and foreign businesses make contact;
- providing intelligence on current markets;
- promoting this province and its businesses;
- continuing trade negotiations in order to reduce barriers to trade;
- providing an efficient transportation system;
- providing education and training programs;
- reducing intervention in the Alberta economy.

"Alberta's traditional industries — agriculture and energy — will continue to provide a strong economic base, and see sustained growth well into this decade ... In Alberta's newer sectors — tourism, forestry, high-technology, petrochemicals, and manufacturing — Albertans have developed a diversified economy throughout the province."

THE ENVIRONMENT — PROTECTING THE PROVINCE

"Alberta is the cleanest province in Canada ... My government recognizes that economic development and environmental protection do not have to be at odds with one other, and is confident that Alberta can show the rest of the world what "sustainable development" really means, by:"

- developing new, comprehensive environmental protection laws;
- holding public discussions on major development;
- increasing public awareness of the environment;
- incorporating the latest environmental technologies;
- preserving land for parks and recreational use;
- developing new waste management and recycling techniques and industries;
- working with other governments to find common environmental standards.

THE PEOPLE — RESPONDING TO THE NEED

"The greatest resource of this province is the people. A steward for the young and the old, the rural and the urban, for men and women — equally — my government must respond to the needs of the whole of the province."

"Encouraging Albertans to live healthy and productive lives continues to be a very high priority of my government." My government will respond to this priority by:

- enhancing the mental health system;
- providing better access to substance abuse treatment;
- implementing recommendations of the Premier's Commission on the Future Health Care of Albertans;
- ensuring that our assistance programs reflect the needs of Albertans;
- continuing to care for seniors;
- providing better day care programs;
- continuing to prevent violence in and out of the home, and providing assistance to those victims of violence;
- ensuring the law protects the individual rights and freedoms of Albertans;
- responding to the changing educational needs of the people.

"Education is the top priority of my government, for the future success of this province lies in the success of the children ... my government will:"

- ensure that Alberta students have access to all levels of education;
- ensure that curricula prepares students for higher education and the workplace, particularly in the areas of science and technology;
- ensure that new tuition policies are developed in consultation with students, faculty and the public.

ALBERTA IN CANADA — DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

"... two other roles my government must perform are to defend Alberta's place as an equal partner in Confederation, and to help improve Confederation." My government will:

- continue to press the Prime Minister to appoint Alberta's clear, democratic choice to the Senate;
- continue its efforts to achieve comprehensive reform of the Senate;
- continue to support constitutional change on the principle that change must make Confederation whole — with all provinces as full participants — and must not grant any special powers or status to any one province.

A STEWARD FOR ALBERTA

"As a steward for the people of Alberta — performing the roles outlined — my government must be flexible and focused ... diverse and united ... but most importantly, my government must reflect the honesty, decency and integrity that are ever-present in Alberta society ... my government must mirror the values of Albertans, and reflect their high ethical standards."

A PLAN OF ACTION

"...Vision alone cannot address the needs and aspirations of this province and its people; a plan of action is required. My government has that plan."

IN THE SESSION

"My government will, in this Session:"

- Introduce comprehensive environmental protection legislation;
- Create a Natural Resources Conservation Board modeled after the highly-respected Energy Resources Conservation Board;
- Introduce a new Loan and Trust Corporation Act that will reflect today's complex and competitive financial sector;
- Introduce a Financial Consumers Act that will provide more fairness to consumers;
- Implement training standards for day care managers and workers;
- Establish The Alberta Family Life and Drug Abuse Foundation;
- Amend The Individual's Rights Protection Act to prohibit discrimination based on mental disability;
- Introduce reforms to The Social Allowance Program to encourage greater independence;
- Establish program policy for International Literacy Year;
- Establish The Lakeland Provincial Park and Recreation Area;
- Expand and improve the Treasury Branches;
- Introduce changes to The Oil Sands Lease Tenure System;
- Institute a comprehensive crop insurance program;
- Seek an amendment to The Constitution of Canada to implement the Metis Settlements Agreements;
- Introduce legislation to reflect the new realities of telecommunications and advanced technology industries;
- And introduce other legislation, programs and fiscal measures.

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Alberta

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE 22ND LEGISLATURE OF
THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1990.

THE HONOURABLE W. HELEN HUNLEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I have the honour to welcome you to the Second Session of the Twenty-second Legislature of the Province of Alberta.

Albertans look forward, this summer, to the visit of Her Majesty the Queen.

In recognition of International Women's Day, I am pleased to observe that all members of the assembly are wearing the commemorative symbol, the red rose.

As we begin this first Session of this new decade, and move forward to the next century, it is important to outline the role my government will undertake.

My government must be a steward for Albertans. They have placed their trust and faith in this assembly -- through this province's strong, democratic traditions -- and this assembly must be everything a steward should be: a manager ... a provider ... a protector ... a responder ... a defender.

As a steward, my government does not dictate the common will, but rather, must listen to the voices of Albertans and express their will through the instruments of government that Albertans entrust to this assembly. I now outline the direction this stewardship will take.

Fiscal Responsibility — Managing the Treasury

As stewards of the budget, my government's ultimate responsibility is to this and future generations of Albertans. Recognizing the perils of deficit spending, and the effect it has on investor and consumer confidence, and recognizing the priority Albertans place on fiscal responsibility, my government has presented a plan for a balanced budget by 1992.

My government has heard Albertans concerns with regard to maintaining the quality of services they now enjoy. While it may at first appear that these two concerns -- balancing the budget, and maintaining the quality of service -- are contradictory, my government is confident that through careful fiscal management, the elimination of duplication of programs and services, and an expanding economy, both goals will be achieved.

My government must act as steward for Alberta on other fiscal matters. Two federal initiatives, the proposed goods and services tax, and the Bank of Canada high interest rate policy, threaten to undermine Alberta's current economic

growth ... to undermine my government's ability to respond to the needs of Albertans ... and to undermine their economic freedom. My government remains strongly opposed to both these federal initiatives.

The Economy — Providing Opportunity

As an economic steward, my government will provide information, assistance and encouragement: but it is the efforts, ideas and abilities of Albertans that make the economy so vibrant. Alberta must continue on its path towards diversification in new industries, and enhanced competitiveness in traditional industries.

My government will assist Alberta business to seize the economic opportunities of growing world markets. Through helping Alberta and foreign businesses make contact ... providing intelligence on current markets ... promoting this province and its businesses ... continuing trade negotiations in order to reduce barriers to trade ... providing an efficient transportation system throughout the province ... and through providing education and training programs that better equip Albertans for the ever-changing world economy.

My government is committed to reducing intervention in the Alberta economy. The people -- management and labour together -- and market forces must determine Alberta's economic future.

Alberta's traditional industries -- agriculture and energy -- will continue to provide a strong economic base. Within these industries, Albertans continue to diversify, streamline and expand. My government recognizes, and is grateful for, Albertans' efforts in building these industries. The results of their efforts are major projects and increasing markets for natural gas, which will provide for sustained growth well into this decade.

In Alberta's newer sectors -- tourism, forestry, high-technology, petro-chemicals, and manufacturing -- Albertans show the rest of Canada and the world their extraordinary ability -- and flexibility -- in creating and developing a diversified economy throughout the province. These are truly the industries of the future, and will provide tens of thousands of Albertans with rewarding employment opportunities. My government welcomes the growth of small business and the new breed of entrepreneurs in this province.

The economic future of Alberta is filled with challenges and opportunities. It will be the ability to make timely decisions that will determine this future. I am confident that Albertans -- with my government's help -- will make the right choices.

The Environment — Protecting the Province

My government recognizes how important the environment has been to Albertans, and how important this issue will continue to be as we move towards the next century.

My government is proud that as a result of the people of Alberta and my government working together, Alberta is the cleanest province in Canada.

We live in a time of rapid change, and my government recognizes the evolving needs of this province, Canada, and indeed the world with respect to this challenge. My government also recognizes that economic development and environmental protection do not have to be at odds with one other. As we begin this new decade, my government is confident that Alberta can show the rest of the world what "sustainable development" really means.

By developing new, comprehensive laws in full consultation with the people of Alberta ... by holding public discussions on major development projects throughout the province ... by increasing public awareness of the environment and the role all Albertans have to play in protecting it ... by incorporating the latest environmental technologies in all our industrial sectors ... by preserving land for parks and recreational use ... by developing new waste management and recycling techniques and industries for use in Alberta and export around the world ... and by working with other governments to find common environmental standards -- Alberta can both develop its vast natural resources and protect and enhance the environment, and in doing so, achieve our enormous potential.

Finally, my government recognizes that Alberta's air, land and water are affected by the actions of others. A global approach to protecting the environment must continue. Whatever expertise we have must be shared; and whatever expertise we are lacking must be sought. This is how my government -- an environmental steward -- will proceed.

The People — Responding to the Need

The greatest resource of this province are the people, and my government must be a government for all Albertans. A steward for the young and the old, the rural and the urban, for men and women -- equally -- my government must respond to the needs of the whole of the province.

Encouraging Albertans to live healthy and productive lives continues to be a very high priority of my government. Health and productivity do not result only

from providing medical services to the ill, but from providing access to preventative services, treatment services and educational programs that will allow them to maintain and improve their physical and mental well-being.

Whether it is enhancing the mental health system, or providing better access to substance abuse treatment, or implementing recommendations of the Premier's Commission on the Future Health Care of Albertans, my government will continue to respond to the health needs of the people.

A productive life is one that is more than just healthy -- it is an enriching and rewarding life as well. These riches and rewards come from strong families, education, recreational opportunities, acceptance of different religions and cultures, safe communities, ensuring equal opportunities for women, and the security of knowing that society will assist those who become disabled or disadvantaged.

By ensuring that our assistance programs reflect the needs of Albertans ... by caring for seniors ... by providing day care programs that provide parents with secure options for raising their children ... by preventing violence in and out of the home, and providing assistance to those victims of violence ... by ensuring the law protects the individual rights and freedoms of Albertans ... and by responding to the changing educational needs of the people, my government will help to make Alberta a more rewarding and enriching place to live.

These educational needs are the top priority of my government, for the future success of this province lies in the success of the children. As a steward, my government will ensure that Alberta students have access to all levels of education, regardless of where they live in the province; ensure that curricula prepares students for higher education and the workplace, particularly in the areas of science and technology; and ensure that new tuition policies are developed in consultation with students, faculty and the public.

Alberta in Canada — Defending the Constitution

As a steward, two other roles my government must perform are to defend Alberta's place as an equal partner in Confederation, and to help improve Confederation. With respect to these roles, there are major challenges that will continue to face this province and this country in the months ahead.

On October 16, 1989, more than 600,000 Albertans voted in the first Senatorial selection in the history of our nation, and chose a nominee for appointment to the Senate of Canada. To this date, the Prime Minister has not

appointed Alberta's clear choice, and my government finds this completely unacceptable. Further, my government will resist any court challenge of the constitutionality of Alberta's Senate selection. Democracy -- in Canada -- is not unconstitutional!

My government will also continue its efforts to achieve comprehensive reform of the Senate. An equal, elected, effective Senate -- a model for reform developed by Albertans -- will provide all the provinces a better voice in the federal parliament, and improve the workings of Confederation. As a steward, my government will continue to provide leadership throughout Canada on this issue.

My government will continue to support constitutional change on the principle that change must make Confederation whole -- with all provinces as full participants. Recognizing that change must provide for the constitutional equality of the provinces, and that Albertans will not accept second-class status ... that change must not grant any special powers or status to any one province ... that change must provide the provinces with a greater role in immigration and appointments to the supreme court of Canada ... that change must strengthen the provinces' ability to carry out their responsibilities without interference from the federal government and their fiscal powers ... and finally, recognizing that change must provide a process through which Senate reform will be achieved, my government wishes to see these changes to our constitution succeed.

The constitution exists to serve the people of Canada, and therefore must evolve as society evolves. My government is committed to this evolution, in a spirit of caring, compromise and generosity.

My government also stewards Alberta's international relations. Building upon the special relations Alberta has maintained with Heilongjiang, the People's Republic of China, Hokkaido, Japan, and Kangwon, the Republic of Korea, my government has recently signed an agreement with the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. Because of the sweeping, democratic reforms taking place in the Soviet Union and the rest of Eastern Europe, this agreement will provide opportunities in many areas, including trade, investment, culture, education, recreation, science and technology. 1990 will be highlighted by exchanges and celebrations to commemorate the centennial of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.

Today I have outlined my government's vision for Alberta. The people of Alberta have entrusted my government with the instruments that are necessary to carry out this vision. Because vision alone cannot address the needs and aspirations of this province and its people, a plan of action is required. My

government has that plan. Having listened to the people of Alberta, and having heard the common will, my government will in this Session:

- Introduce comprehensive environmental protection legislation;
- Create a Natural Resources Conservation Board modeled after the highly-respected Energy Resources Conservation Board;
- Introduce a new Loan and Trust Corporation Act that will reflect today's complex and competitive financial sector;
- Introduce a Financial Consumers Act that will provide more fairness to consumers;
- Implement training standards for day care managers and workers;
- Establish The Alberta Family Life and Drug Abuse Foundation;
- Amend The Individual's Rights Protection Act to prohibit discrimination based on mental disability;
- Introduce reforms to the Social Allowance Program to encourage greater independence;
- Establish program policy for International Literacy Year;
- Establish The Lakeland Provincial Park and Recreation Area;
- Expand and improve the Treasury Branches;
- Introduce changes to the Oil Sands Lease Tenure System;
- Institute a comprehensive crop insurance program;
- Seek an amendment to The Constitution of Canada to implement the Metis Settlements Agreements;
- Introduce legislation to reflect the new realities of telecommunications and advanced technology industries;
- And introduce other legislation, programs and fiscal measures for consideration and deliberation in this house.

As a steward for the people of Alberta -- performing all the roles I have outlined today -- my government must be flexible and focused ... diverse and united ... but most importantly, my government must reflect the honesty, decency and integrity that are ever-present in Alberta society. As a steward, my government must mirror the values of Albertans, and reflect their high ethical standards.

In due course you will be presented with budget estimates. You will be asked to authorize the necessary funds for operating services and expenditures, and to endorse a program of capital financing for the Government of Alberta. You represent a beautiful province of strength, hope and promise.

And now I leave you to the business of this Session, confident that as elected representatives you will in every way fulfill your responsibilities as stewards for Albertans.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I pray that the blessing of God may rest upon your deliberations.

God Bless Alberta.

God Save the Queen.